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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/608,691

06/27/2003

Patrick A. Hampton

CE11246JI019

9686

7590

07/11/2006

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EXAMINER

YACOB, SISAY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

12

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/608,691	Applicant(s) HAMPTON ET AL.	
	Examiner Sisay Yacob	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1 This communication is in response to applicant's amendment to first non-final office action, which was filed April 25, 2006.

2 Amendments to claims 1-20 have been entered and made of record in the application of Hampton et al., "Transducer assembly" filed on June 27, 2003.

Claims 1, 17 and 18 are amended.

Claims 2-16 and 19-20 are the same as originally filed.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3 Applicant's amendments and arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5 The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6 Claims 1-3, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emmert (6,352,434) in view of US patent of Braund (6,373,942).

7 As to claim 1, Emmert discloses a transducer assembly (Item 100 of figure 1) comprising a transducer (Item 342 of figures 3 and 4), a flexible circuit element (Item 316 of figures 3 and 4), wherein said transducer is coupled to said flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 66-67; Col. 4, line 1), a transducer seal having a perimeter (Item 328 of figure 3 and 4), wherein the transducer seal seals the transducer when the transducer seal is positioned between a cover and the flexible circuit element (Item 106, 316, 328 and 342 of figures 3 and 4). However,

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Emmert does not expressly disclose at least a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element. In the similar field of endeavor, Braund discloses a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 8-30; Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 14-15 Items 28, 62 and 64 of figure 2).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have a transducer assembly comprising a transducer, a flexible circuit element, wherein said transducer is coupled to said flexible circuit element, a transducer seal having a perimeter, wherein the transducer seal seals the transducer when the transducer seal is positioned between a cover and the flexible circuit element at least a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element, because it would be desirable to reduce the size and weight of a transducer assembly while achieving increased flexibility.

8 As to claim 2, the transducer assembly according to claim 1, further, Emmert discloses the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 63-67; Col. 4, lines 1-3) Items 316 of figures 3 and 4) is coupled to a display (Items 346 of figures 3 and 4) and a circuit board (Col. 4, lines 63-67; Col. 5, lines 1-8; Items 746 of figures 7 and 8), said display, said circuit board, said transducer, said flexible circuit element and said transducer seal being housed within a telecommunications device (Col. 9, lines 46-61).

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9 As to claim 3, the transducer assembly according to claim 2, further, Emmert discloses the circuit board includes a zero insertion force connector for receiving said flexible circuit element (Col. 1, lines 61-66).

10 As to claim 14, the assembly according to claim 1, further, Braund discloses the transducer seal is constructed of at least one of rubber and plastic (Col. 7, lines 32-34; Item 64 of figure 2).

11 As to claim 18, Emmert discloses a method for producing a transducer assembly (Col. 9, lines 53-57), comprising the steps of providing a transducer (Item 342 of figures 3 and 4) and a flexible circuit element (Item 316 of figures 3 and 4) coupling the transducer to the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 63-67), and positioning a transducer seal having a perimeter between a cover and the flexible circuit element to seal the transducer (See figures 3 and 4). However, Emmert does not expressly disclose at least a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element. Braund discloses a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 8-30; Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 14-15 Items 28, 62 and 64 of figure 2).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have a method for producing a transducer assembly, comprising the steps of providing a transducer and a flexible circuit element coupling the transducer to the flexible circuit element, and positioning a transducer seal

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having a perimeter between a cover and the flexible circuit element to seal the transducer such that at least a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element, because it would be desirable to reduce the size and weight of a transducer assembly while achieving increased flexibility.

12 Claims 4-10, 16-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emmert in view of Braund and further in view of US patent of Nicolaisen et al. (6,504,595).

13 As to claim 4, the transducer assembly according to claim 1, however, the combination of Emmert and Braund does not expressly disclose an extension of a lightguide, at least a portion of the flexible circuit element being positioned on and secured to the extension of the lightguide. In the similar field of endeavor, Nicolaisen et al., discloses a flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide (Col. 2, lines 1-7; Items 26, 34 and 35 of figure 4).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the transducer assembly of Emmert and Braund, by incorporating a flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide, in order to have an extension of a lightguide, at least a portion of the flexible circuit element being positioned on and secured to the extension of the lightguide, because Nicolaisen et al., discloses a transducer assembly that incorporates flexiable circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a

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lightguide and one of ordinary skill in the art recognize having a lightguide is necessary to illuminate the display unit.

14 As to claim 5, the transducer assembly according to claim 4, further, Nicolaisen et al., discloses the extension of the lightguide is positioned above a circuit board housed in a telecommunications device and wherein at least a portion of at least one circuit element is mountable on the circuit board in an area that is below the extension of the lightguide (Col. 3, lines 59-67; Col. 4, lines 1-5; Items 25, 26, 34 and 35 of figure 4).

15 As to claim 6, the transducer assembly according to claim 4, and set forth above in claim 4, further, Emmert discloses the cover comprises a housing (Item 106 of figures 3 and 4), and a bezel (Item 332 of figures 3 and 4), the housing engages the bezel, and the lightguide engages the housing, wherein when the lightguide engages the housing and the housing engages the bezel, the transducer seal is positioned against the housing and the bezel (Col. 3, lines 25-62).

16 As to claim 7, the transducer assembly according to claim 6, further, Emmert discloses a transducer seal comprises a front portion having a first rim and a back portion having a second rim (Col. 3, lines 63-67; Item 328 of figures 3 and 4).

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17 As to claim 8, the transducer assembly according to claim 7, further, Emmert discloses the transducer seal is positioned against the housing (Item 106 of figures 3 and 4) and the bezel (Item 104 of figures 3 and 4), the first rim of the front portion of the transducer seal engages the bezel with a sealing interference fit (See figure 2).

18 As to claim 9, the transducer assembly according to claim 7, further, as set forth above in claim 4, the combination of Emmert and Nicolaisen et al., discloses when the transducer seal is positioned against the housing and the lightguide engages the housing, the second rim of the back portion of the transducer seal engages the flexible circuit element with a sealing interference fit (See figures 2-4 of Emmert; See figure 4 of Nicolaisen et al.).

19 As to claim 10, the transducer assembly according to claim 1, further, Nicolaisen et al., discloses transducer includes at least one spring contact for coupling the transducer to the flexible circuit element (Col. 6, Lines 43-49).
As to claim 16, the transducer assembly according to claim 5, further, Nicolaisen et al., discloses the extension of the lightguide includes at least one leg, the leg being positioned against a surface of the circuit board for supplementally supporting the lightguide (Col. 5, lines 1-3; Item 26 of figure 4).

20 As to claim 17, Emmert discloses a transducer assembly (Col. 9, lines 53-57) comprising a transducer (Item 342 of figures 3 and 4), a flexible circuit

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element (Item 316 of figures 3 and 4), wherein the transducer is coupled to the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 63-67; Col. 4, line 1), and a transducer seal having a perimeter (Item 328 of figures 3 and 4), wherein the transducer seal seals the transducer when the transducer seal is positioned between a cover and the flexible circuit element (Item 106, 316, 328 and 342 of figures 3 and 4).

However, Emmert does not expressly disclose an extension of a lightguide, wherein at least a portion of said flexible circuit element is positioned on and secured to an extension of said lightguide. In the similar field of endeavor, Nicolaisen et al., discloses a flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide (Col. 2, lines 1-7; Items 26, 34 and 35 of figure 4).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the transducer assembly of Emmert, by incorporating the flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide, in order to have a flexible circuit element, wherein the transducer is coupled to the flexible circuit element, an extension of a lightguide, wherein at least a portion of the flexible circuit element is positioned on and secured to said extension of said lightguide, and a transducer seal, wherein the transducer seal seals the transducer when the transducer seal is positioned between a cover and the flexible circuit element, because Nicolaisen et al., discloses a transducer assembly that incorporates flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide and one of ordinary skill in the art recognize having a lightguide is necessary to illuminate the display unit. However, the combination of Emmert and Nicolaisen et al., does not expressly disclose at least a majority

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portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element.

Braund discloses a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element (Col. 3, lines 8-30; Col. 6, lines 23-31; Col. 7, lines 14-15 Items 28, 62 and 64 of figure 2).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to have a transducer assembly comprising the steps of providing a transducer and a flexible circuit element coupling the transducer to the flexible circuit element, and positioning a transducer seal having a perimeter between a cover and the flexible circuit element to seal the transducer such that at least a majority portion of the perimeter of a transducer seal sits on the flexible circuit element, because it would be desirable to reduce the size and weight of a transducer assembly while achieving increased flexibility.

21 As to claim 19, the method according to claim 18, however, Emmert does not expressly disclose the steps of providing an extension of a lightguide and securing the flexible circuit element to the extension of the lightguide. In the similar field of endeavor, Nicolaisen et al., discloses a method of a flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide (Col. 2, lines 1-7; Items 26, 34 and 35 of figure 4).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the method of a transducer assembly of Emmert, by incorporating the method of a flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide, in order to have a method for an extension of a

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lightguide, at least a portion of the flexible circuit element being positioned on and secured to the extension of the lightguide, because Nicolaisen et al., discloses a method for a transducer assembly that incorporates flexible circuit element that is secured onto an extension of a lightguide and one of ordinary skill in the art recognize having a lightguide is necessary to illuminate the display unit.

22 As to claim 20, the method according to claim 19, further, Nicolaisen et al., discloses the step of positioning the lightguide above a circuit board housed in a telecommunications device, wherein at least a portion of at least one circuit element is mountable on the circuit board in an area that is below the extension of the lightguide (Col. 3, lines 59-67; Col. 4, lines 1-5; Items 25, 26, 34 and 35 of figure 4).

23 Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emmert in view of Braund and further in view of US patent of Curtis et al. (6,352,434).

24 As to claim 11, the transducer assembly according to claim 1, further, Emmert discloses a transducer seal that comprises an aperture for receiving the transducer and a first rim (Item 328 of figures 3 and 4). However, the combination of Emmert and Braund does not disclose a plate that covers a first end of the aperture. In similar field of endeavor, Curtis et al., discloses a

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transducer seal that is a plate, which covers one side of the transducer (Col. 3, lines 39-41; Item 12 of figures 2 and 3).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the transducer assembly of Emmert and Braund, by incorporating the seal that is a plate of Curtis et al., in order to have the transducer assembly a transducer seal that comprises an aperture for receiving the transducer a plate that covers a first end of the aperture and a first rim, because Emmert discloses a seal that is formed have a rim and Curtis et al., discloses a seal that is a plate, which covers one side of the transducer. One of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that having the plate strengthen the seal that may also prevent undesirable movement of the transducer.

25 As to claim 12, the transducer assembly according to claim 11, further, Emmert discloses at least a portion of the first rim extends above the plate (Item 328 of figures 3 and 4).

26 As to claim 13, the transducer assembly according to claim 11, further, Emmert discloses when the transducer is inserted into said aperture, a bottom surface of said first rim of the transducer seal engages the transducer with a sealing interference fit and an inner surface of the aperture of the transducer seal engages the transducer with a sealing interference fit (Col. 3, lines 66-67).

27 Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Emmert in view of in view of Braund and further in view of US patent of Brown et al. (4,984,268).

28 As to claim 15, the transducer assembly according to claim 1, however, the combination of Emmert and Braund does not disclose the seal that is formed prevents high audio leakage through the transducer assembly. In the similar field of endeavor, Brown et al., discloses a seal that is formed prevents audio leakage through the transducer assembly (Col. 2, lines 44-50, 61-66; Col. 4, lines 62-68; Col. 5, lines 1-14; See figures 2-4).

It would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the transducer assembly of Emmert and Braund, by incorporating a seal that is formed prevents audio leakage, as taught by Brown et al., in order to have the transducer assembly seal that is formed prevents high audio leakage through the transducer assembly, because Brown et al., discloses a seal that is formed prevents audio leakage through the transducer assembly and one of ordinary skill in the art recognize that the seal may be modified to prevent any level of audio leak as desired.

Conclusion

29 **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire

THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

30 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sisay Yacob whose telephone number is (571) 272-8562. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

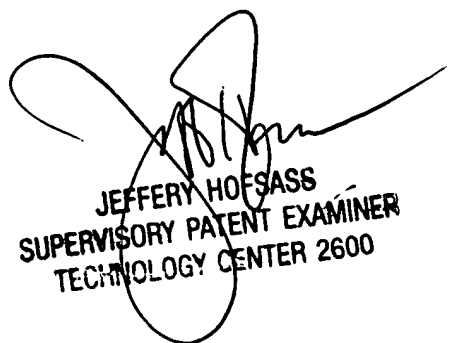
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Sisay Yacob

7/5/2006

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